

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-11 (cancelled)

Claim 12. (original) In an apparatus for making a foamed porous membrane comprising an extruder equipped with a metering apparatus and heating elements to form a polymer melt, said extruder having a cylinder connected via a first melt pump to a die for extrusion of a membrane from said polymer melt, an injection stage before said first melt pump for charging said polymer melt with a cell former, a heat exchanger located between said first melt pump and said die to form a second mixing stage, the improvement comprising a second melt pump located upstream from said die for forcing said polymer melt through said die.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said heat exchanger is equipped with a static mixer.

Claim 14. (cancelled)

Claim 15. (original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said injection stage comprises metering pumps that are connected via hollow needles and plates so as to be in fluid communication with said cylinder of said extruder.

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Claim 16. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said metering pumps are equipped with ~~coolable~~ pump heads that are thermostatically controlled.

Claim 17. (original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said die is configured as a wide-slit nozzle.